

A F F I D A V I T

19 June 1946

TOKYO }
 } SS.
JAPAN }

OFTA, Shizuo being duly sworn deposes and says in the English language:

Between 1936 and 1941 I was Managing Director of the main office of MITSUI Company in Tokyo. In November, 1937 a business acquaintance of mine, Mr. NAKANISHI introduced a man by the name of FUJITA to me. Mr. FUJITA desired us to purchase for him 200,000 catties of Persian opium. He showed me a paper signed by a Colonel KUSUMOTO of the Special Service Department of the Japanese Military Forces in Shanghai which paper requested that these 200,000 catties of opium be delivered at Shanghai. Knowing the complications of dealing in opium, we did not desire to take any part in this transaction. Mr. NAKANISHI interceded for Mr. Fujita pointing out to us that the opium was needed in Shanghai for the betterment of humanity. Before we would make any final decision on the matter, we sent a member of our staff to Shanghai to investigate the needs of opium there. When our investigator returned, he reported to me that the proposed business was legitimate so we decided to take it up.

We then instructed our office in Persia to purchase the 200,000 catties of opium but because of a shortage of opium in Persia at that time, we were only able to order 1,400 cases of 120 catties each, or 160 lbs. each, which were shipped to Shanghai in two shipments, the first shipment comprised 428 cases and arrived at Shanghai on the S.S. Singapore Maru in April, 1938, the remaining 972 cases were delivered in January 1939.

I do not recall who issued the import permit which was necessary for the exportation of the opium from Persia. It was not issued in Tokyo. I believe that it was issued in Shanghai by some type of Chinese Government under the control of the Japanese Military Forces but I do not know when. Sometime after this transaction had been completed, the foreign office of the Japanese Government requested an explanation of us as to why we had purchased this opium without prior consultation with the Foreign Office. We informed them that it was done at the request of the military authorities in Shanghai and the matter was then closed although it is my recollection that the Foreign Office was very much annoyed.

/s/ Shizuo Ohta
OFTA, Shizuo

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above named OFTA, Shizuo, at the War Ministry Bldg., Tokyo, Japan, this 19th day of June, 1946.

/s/ John F. Hummel
Major, J.A.G.D.